

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-65 are pending in the application. However, pursuant to the Preliminary Amendment filed July 14, 2003, Applicants believe only claims 26-65 are pending in the application.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objection under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c)

The Examiner objected to claims 2-27 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper multiple dependent form. As stated above, claims 2-25 were cancelled by a Preliminary Amendment that was filed on July 14, 2003 rendering this objection moot. In addition, claim 26 is an independent claim and claim 27 depends only from claim 26. Therefore, Applicants believe that the objection with respect to claims 26 and 27 has been made in error.

Statutory Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 18 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,689,902. As stated above, claim 1 was cancelled by Preliminary amendment. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

The Examiner also rejected claims 26-65 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-39 of U.S. Patent No. 6,689,092. In order to overcome this rejection, Applicants submit a terminal disclaimer herewith.

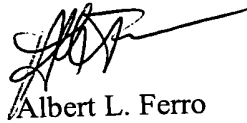
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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